

**Northwest Air Data Exchange
Vendor Questions
November 23, 2005**

- Q: **Section 1.6** May vendor continue to sell other product lines to Ecology and local agencies while competing for this bid?
- A: Vendors may continue to contact Ecology and local agency staff and sell product lines that do not involve components included in this RFP. Vendors may only contact the RFP Coordinator, Kathy Sundberg, with questions about this acquisition. Questions should be posed via email.
- Q: **Section 2.5-** Explain the requirement for naming Ecology as an escrow beneficiary.
- A: Ecology needs to protect it's investment in the event the winning vendor goes out of business. If Ecology is named as an escrow beneficiary, Ecology could obtain and maintain the system code.
- Q: **Section 3.0-**Ecology has considerable mandatory requirements and it appears that not meeting just one will eliminate a vendor from competition. Is it possible to relax some of the mandatory requirements?
- A: Ecology is considering relaxing the .NET requirement, has redefined the client-server requirement and has documented acceptable changes in the documents on the RFP website. The Ecology business team spent considerable time and effort defining what it needed in a new system and that its requirements are based on business needs. After consideration, the team decided that it does not want to relax any additional requirements.
- Q **Section 3.1.3-**Will Ecology allow smart clients to be accessed by other means than HTTP/HTTPS?
- A: Vendors may propose other methods of access. Other solutions/proposals need to be consistent with Ecology/DI S standards. Other solutions/proposals must allow access to sites and the central system from other/remote locations. If vendors would like additional information on this topic prior to submitting a proposal, Ecology can arrange conference calls with each vendor and Ecology's Network/Security Administrator. Ecology will allow VPN connections, consistent with Ecology/Department of Information Services (DI S) implementation standards.
- Q: **Section 4.2.1** refers to developing a Project Work Plan. Is a detailed plan to be complete at the time the project proposal is submitted?
- A: Vendor's need not develop a detailed work plan to submit with the proposal. However, the vendor's proposal must include a preliminary work plan in enough detail to describe to Ecology how the vendor will complete the project in the timeframe required. The proposal must describe the Ecology resources required (skill set, approximate timeframe). Regular meetings and team "report-outs" and plan/project review are important to Ecology. The vendor should briefly propose a mechanism for these activities.

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- Q: **Section 3.11.1**-The central system must provide for control of gas dilution systems solenoid and relays that are scheduled remotely and are induced multi-level automated precision and calibration checks initiated data logger. I was essentially looking there and I would have thought that in most solutions the control for the calibration and so forth would be all instigated from the data logger as such. So, I'm wondering what you're actually trying to aim at there. Is it a matter of that you need to go to access the data logger and then initiate the calibration or does there need to be some overriding system where the central system can take control effectively.
- A: We're looking for both of those features. We're looking for a data logger or a central system that we can use to control and schedule automated precision and full calibration checks of any of the instruments that we want to perform. For an example, we have a lot of our sites that run these processes at 2:46 am in the morning. When we can come in the morning, we can see what our instruments are doing overnight. But, we also want the functionality of being able to communicate with a site using a PC workstation here in the building. We want to initiate a calibration from a desktop. We also want that same ability for someone sitting at the home via the internet or other cost effective mechanism.
- Q: **Section 3.17.8** indicated loggers should be expandable to 96 channels. What is the largest number of channels now used in any station operated by Ecology or its regional partners? Many device providers indicate capacity in "points" of information, which includes analog in, analog out, digital in and digital out. What is considered a data channel in this requirement? Other organizations have considered analyzer diagnostic parameters as channels in their specifications. In this context, an SO2 instrument would use one channel for the SO2 value and up to 24 diagnostic companion values. Is Ecology considering diagnostics as channels in their specification?
- A: Currently, the maximum channels configured at one site are 23. In the case of the R&P PM2.5 samplers, if we were to bring filter data into the data logger and parse the data string to individual data channels, we would need 48 channels just for that data. We do want the ability to store some diagnostic channels, such as alarms on TEOMs.
- Q: **Section 3.17.16** states "The vendor's data logger must allow an operator, with the proper security access, to set an audit or calibration flag." Is this a flag to tell the data logger to perform a calibration, or a flag to indicate that a calibration has occurred? Is this referring to a manual calibration and hence further calibrations should be compared to the result of such a calibration?
- A: This flag is intended only as an indication that a calibration/audit is occurring and that the data collected during the flagged period is not reflective of ambient air concentrations and thus should not be included in website/reports. However, the data should be visible via the

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Graphical Data Editor. The flag is not intended to tell the data logger to automatically perform a calibration.

Q How does Ecology currently collect data from sites?

A: Ecology has an extensive leased line network that it uses to poll most of the sites. It also has several sites which use a dial-up process to collect the data as installing a leased line circuit was very expensive. Ecology also uses cell modems at a few sites. Ecology has three sites that have no automated data collection capabilities. These sites are remote and installation of a telephone circuit was prohibitively expensive and/or no cell signal is available. Vendor proposals should allow for these options.